



Geisha



Arashiyama bamboo forest, Kyoto



Golden Pavilion, Kyoto



Kabukicho district, Tokyo



Cherry blossoms, Mount Fuji

ASIA

Japan's Cultural Treasures

Japan: Tokyo, Hakone, Kanazawa, Kyoto

Small groups of no more than 16 travelers, guaranteed

A colorful Shinto festival winds its way past neon lights and Tokyo skyscrapers ... a modern bullet train speeds past a farmer tending his rice paddy ... a well-dressed businessman stops in a Buddhist temple to light incense ... majestic Mount Fuji provides an iconic backdrop for Hakone, where locals relax in volcanic hot springs. Join us to explore more than 2,000 years of Japanese history and culture, from ultra-modern Tokyo through the former imperial capital of Kyoto, and all the way back to Kanazawa's unique samurai architecture.



15 days starting from \$6,495

including international airfare

from 4 U.S. cities

Single Supplement: **FREE**

Departure Dates: Mar-Jun; Aug-Nov

Activity Level: ①②③④⑤ Moderate

IT'S INCLUDED

- 13 nights accommodation
- International airfare, airport transfers, government taxes, fees, and airline fuel surcharges unless you choose to make your own air arrangements
- All land transportation, including 3 rail transfers on bullet and local trains
- 29 meals—13 breakfasts, 9 lunches, and 7 dinners
- 13 small group activities
- Gratuities for local guides and drivers

ITINERARY

DAY 1 • Depart U.S.

Depart the U.S. on your overnight flight to Tokyo, Japan.

DAY 2 • Tokyo

Arrive in Tokyo. An O.A.T. representative will meet you at the airport and assist with the transfer to your hotel. There, meet your Trip Experience Leader and fellow travelers, including those who took the optional *Tokyo: Ancient & Modern Traditions* pre-trip extension.

Shizutetsu Hotel Prezio Tokyo Tamachi or similar

DAY 3 • Tokyo • Meet former sumo wrestler

Visit a restaurant owned by a former sumo wrestler, and enjoy an interactive demonstration of this iconic sport. Then, engage in a conversation with a former wrestler who will share their experience with us—an exclusive O.A.T. feature.

Meals: B,L | Shizutetsu Hotel Prezio Tokyo Tamachi or similar

DAY 4 • Tokyo • Taiko drumming experience • Asakusa

Take the world-renown Tokyo subway to visit a *taiko* studio. *Taiko* are traditional drums that have been used throughout Japan's history—from setting the beat for marching armies to adding a tempo to boisterous festivals. Here, we will learn the art of traditional Japanese drums from a drum master. Then, travel to the district of Asakusa, and stroll down streets lined with shops. Tonight, our Welcome Dinner will feature traditional Japanese foods such as sashimi and tempura.

Meals: B,D | Shizutetsu Hotel Prezio Tokyo Tamachi or similar

DAY 5 • Hakone • A Day in the Life of Ashigara

Travel to Hakone, stopping for *A Day in the Life* of the rural town of Ashigara. We will learn about the customs of the town and take part in a cooking lesson with local residents. For lunch, we'll roll up our sleeves for a traditional Japanese cooking lesson and prepare our very own rice balls. Later, enjoy some free time to explore on your own. You might stop in at a sake brewery, or pay your respects at the town's temple.

Meals: B,L,D | Hotel Recove Hakone or similar

DAY 6 • Hakone • Boat ride on Lake Ashi • Wood workshop • Controversial Topic: Unraveling the mystery of the Japanese geisha

This morning, embark on a boat ride on Lake Ashi, a scenic crater lake situated along a wall of the Mount Hakone caldera. Then, visit a woodcraft shop to learn how the intricate, wooden inlaid pieces are produced. Afterward, meet the madam of a local geisha house to discuss the **Controversial Topic** of the mysterious world of these highly-skilled performance artists.

Meals: B,L,D | Hotel Recove Hakone or similar

DAY 7 • Hakone • Overland to Tokyo • Bullet train to Kanazawa

We'll drive to Tokyo, where we'll ride the *shinkansen* (bullet train) to Kanazawa. At 200 mph, it remains among the fastest trains in the world.

Meals: B,D | Hotel Kanazawa or similar

DAY 8 • Kanazawa • Kenrokuen Garden • Visit Omicho Market

Visit the beautiful Kenrokuen Garden, then walk the Higashi Chaya District, known for its teahouses. Next, visit the 300-year-old Omicho Market. Finally, visit a local gold leaf company for a hands-on lesson.

Meals: B,L | Hotel Kanazawa or similar

DAY 9 • Kanazawa • Optional Gokayama tour

Enjoy free time to explore Kanazawa on your own, or join a full-day optional excursion to Gokayama—a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This village in the remote Chubu Mountains is renowned for its distinctive *gassho-zukuri*-style homes with steeply pitched thatched roofs.

Meals: B | Hotel Kanazawa or similar

ADVENTURE HIGHLIGHT



On Day 5, spend *A Day in the Life* of Ashigara, and meet the locals of this rural mountain town

